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The First One Hundred Years
of



Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1885 - 1985

Our Centennial Observance
October 13, 1985

ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Bladenboro, North Carolina

Celebrates It's First One Hundred Years

1885 - 1985



OUR CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

October 13, 1985

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion . . .

Psalms 87:2

BX
6480
K63
756
1985

FOREWARD

Zion Hill Baptist Church 1885 - 1985

We believe that it was with the vision of a group of sincere, dedicated believers under the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit that Zion Hill was organized in 1885. We acknowledge with grateful appreciation all those who organized our church and all who have been faithful to Zion Hill during the past one hundred years. We realize when we look back over the years that our church has been and continues to be one of the greatest blessings our families share together. In the early years it was the main source for social activities, as well as for Christian Fellowship.

We have seen the guiding hand of God throughout the pages of history of Zion Hill. It is with regret that many truly great people are unseen in the pages of this publication, but a book of this length can only include so much.

It is with great humility and reverence that this committee has undertaken the task of bringing the history, ordinary happenings, and sacred events of the church, and its people, together in written form.

Now we leave to the future generations of our church our deep love as they, too, will serve the cause of Christ in their time.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



IN MEMORIAM



Zion Hill was dearly loved by 'Aunt Kate' as she was affectionately known by everyone. She was a responsible person who spoke her convictions, she was also responsible for having recorded much of our church history. Zion Hill was the place that she worshiped God, and it was from this place that she went out to obey his word. She was a good example of a dedicated disciple of Christ. For an epitaph, she selected from the book of Psalms the following words, "*Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.*"

Psalm 84:4

MRS. KATE SINGLETARY DAVIS
1878 - 1959

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

As we come to this Centennial Celebration, my family and I are in our fifth year of service. It is a joy to write these words, because it is always satisfying to speak of happy experiences. For the most part our relationship to the Zion Hill Church family has been a happy and constructive one. I trust this feeling is mutual. There is a certain atmosphere that permeates a church family when Christian love is evident, and it is very rewarding to dwell in a church family where the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus dwells.

In keeping with the above verse from Proverbs, I readily acknowledge the leadership of God upon the founders, members and former pastors and leaders of our church. And so I feel God led me to be the shepherd-leader of these dear people, and I pray for the continued leadership of the Lord upon us in our relationship.

One of the most attractive aspects of our work has been the ‘new things’. I was not only the new preacher, but it was also the excitement and challenge of being the first full-time pastor. So, in a sense we both, pastor and people, were taking new steps. There was also the thrill of moving into a brand new house, which was right before Christmas in 1980. During these five years we have sought to serve the Lord among the people, the Lord has verified His call; we are all better because of the mighty moving of God’s spirit among us during our revivals and many services.

Another new thing for us is the Centennial Celebration. Being able to share in the Celebration of the first one hundred years as a church should call forth a deep heart searching. And only as we *“In all thy ways acknowledge him,”* will the years ahead be glorious in His Name. May the joyful expectation we feel produce a deeper faith equal to the challenge of the future.

Under His Omnipotence,



Tim Sellers

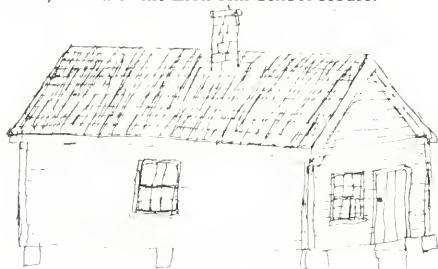


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HISTORY OF ZION HILL CHURCH

The origin of Zion Hill Church was in a community without a church in the year 1885. The community center was a public school house located two miles north of a village, now a town named Bladenboro. The school house, a one-room framed building was located beside the Cotton Road, and became referred to as the Cleveland School House, and later the Zion Hill School House.



*The School building on Bladenboro Rd. Bladenboro, N.C. 1908
Drawing by H. H. H. H. H.*

THE CLEVELAND SCHOOL

The dedicated Christian people of the community organized Sunday School Prayer Meetings that were first held in a saw-mill shanty, later they were held in the local school house. Several members of this group were church members of Galeed, Hickory Grove, Abbottsburg, and Sandy Grove. In the nineteenth century these churches were located a distance that was not always easy to get to, since the roads being what they were and the mode of travel was either by foot, horseback, and animal-drawn carts and carriages. All of this made regular attendance at their respective churches impossible at times. Upmost in the minds of these people was that a church be located closer by; but how could this become a reality.

A ray of light filtered through when Elizabeth Ann Davis Butler advised the Baptists that she would give an acre of land adjoining the school house site, upon which they could erect a meeting house. From the time of her offer, the people visualized a church in their own community, and began working to bring it about.

With an offer of land on which they could build a meeting house, they all agreed to unite and to launch out to organize a new church. Late in the year 1885, those who would begin the church began calling for letters of dismission from their churches for the expressed purpose of organizing the new church.

A Presbytery composed of representatives from nearby Baptist Churches was called on to over-see and

guide the candidates in organizing a new church. The organizational meeting took place in the local district school house. The name 'Zion Hill', was chosen for the new church and the election of officers took place. The church called Rufus M. Hilburn for the office of pastor, he accepted. H. Francis Hilburn was chosen for the office of deacon. William A. Butler was elected church clerk.

The church would pay the pastor for his services, while the other officials elected would serve gratis.

The pastor was engaged to serve the church on a quarter-to basis which included preaching at two regular services (one Sunday worship service and one Saturday worship service followed with a business meeting) per month, administer the ordinances, be on call to conduct special services, such as weddings, funerals, et cetera, and in general shepherd the church.

The charter members of the new church united together to preserve and secure the principles of faith in Jesus Christ. The church body would be governed in an orderly manner, and be consistent with accepted tenets of Baptist Churches from which they came.

The new church would hold a regular business meeting which was referred to as a church conference. The conference was scheduled to be held on the Saturday preceding a Sunday worship service. Following the Saturday Worship Service, the pastor was expected to call the church to order for conference and to moderate it according to the Rules of Decorum. Among the items on the agenda would be calling the roll and notice of absentees, reading and approving the Minutes of the last conference, extend an invitation to visiting brethren, and to call for and dispose of unfinished business. Also, the reception of members, the annual election of church officers, and the appointment of delegates to sessions of the Association of Churches. Male members were required to be in attendance, except they be excused by action of the church. On two consecutive absences the church would seek to communicate with the member through an appointed committee or by letter-all for the purpose of cultivating a fellowship of love and benevolence. Disciplinary action would be taken upon the disorderly walk of a member, male or female, which was offensive to the church body. The withdrawal of fellowship for a member would occur only as a last resort, and this was after the church would first seek to restore the member to a full fellowship in the church.

The Community Sunday Prayer Meeting Group which was started prior to the organization of the church, immediately affiliated with the new church upon its organization. Sunday School met each Sunday for an hour. This weekly gathering at the church meeting house

afforded visitation and the dissemination of information and news around the community.

In the year 1886, the church held two protractive (revival) meetings. The first meeting took place just before the quake (Charleston, South Carolina earthquake, August 31, 1886) that heavily jolted the entire local area, after which the second meeting was held. There was a marked increase of interest shown in the second meeting over that of the first.

Upon a finding of satisfactory evidence of the orthodoxy of the new church and upon its request for admission, the Cape Fear Baptist Association of churches received Zion Hill as a member on October 19-22, 1886.

On October 20-23, 1892, a letter of dismissal was granted to Zion Hill Church from the Cape Fear Baptist Association for the expressed purpose of aiding the formation of an Association for Baptist Churches within Bladen County. Zion Hill became a charter member of the Bladen Baptist Association in an organizational meeting which took place on November 11, 1892.

Recorded in the minutes of the October, 1906 Conference, the church agreed to begin holding its regular monthly conference at the hour of 12 o'clock noon on the scheduled Saturday. This continued for an unknown period.



ZION HILL SCHOOL - 1916

The Cleveland School House which was an integral part of the origin of Zion Hill Church was replaced with a new building in 1916. In 1923 the church expanded its space to facilitate a graded Sunday School, and an annex was built to the sanctuary.

An organization called by the letters BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union) began at Zion Hill in 1929. The organization provided training and religious education for all who would participate, giving stamina to church leadership. This organization later became referred to as the Baptist Training Union.

By the year 1939, the sanctuary was in a bad state of repair. The church decided on March 25, 1939 to start a fund for the purpose of financing the construction of a new sanctuary and class rooms. Out of need to secure a loan for

financing the construction of the proposed building, it came to the attention that the church was without a written title for the land on which the sanctuary existed. The record title holders of the land then presented a deed to the church for one acre to honor the initial owner's commitment to provide land upon which to locate its first sanctuary. Construction began on October 25, 1939. The structure was a concrete masonry block building.

The Bladen County Association of Baptist Churches held the first day of its Fiftieth Annual Session at Zion Hill on October 15, 1941. Upon payment of the debt for the Sanctuary, the church dedicated the building on November 28, 1943.

For sixty-three years the church conducted its regular conference on Saturdays. The last Saturday conference was held on Saturday before the first Sunday in October 1949. The church began holding its regular conferences on Sundays on June 25, 1950. On February 14, 1954 the church adopted a schedule for the active service of its Deacons, referred to as a Rotation System of Deacon service. Prior to this action, the Deacons were chosen to an active service for the remainder of their lives, upon their respective ordination.

A Church Constitution was adopted and enacted by the church on April 11, 1954.

By a letter, a group of twelve members requested a letter of membership transfer for the purpose of organizing a new church. A letter of transfer was granted to the group, plus four additional members requesting to transfer on August 15, 1954, all becoming charter members of the Northside Baptist Church, Bladenboro.

Zion Hill Church hosted the Sixty-Third annual Session of the Bladen Association of Baptist Churches on its second day of meetings in 1954.

A building program was begun in 1956 to build additional class rooms. A brick veneer building was erected and the rooms were completed and ready for use on March 10, 1957. A Departmentalized Sunday School was also started in 1957.

Zion Hill hosted the Seventy-fifth Annual Session of the Bladen County Association of Baptist Churches on the first day of a two-day meeting on October 12, 1966.

A ground-breaking service was held on June 17, 1973 to start building a fellowship and class room annex to the existing brick veneer class-room building, and to add a sanctuary annex to the same building. The new sanctuary annex and the new fellowship and class-room annex were dedicated in a special service on June 30, 1974. Grounds were landscaped, walkways were made, and a parking lot was paved all in the year of 1974.

The church received a title for a parcel of land designated for the purpose of building a parsonage on December 16, 1975. A title was acquired for additional land for the parsonage on March 22, 1977.

Zion Hill hosted the Eighty-Seventh Session of the Bladen Association of Baptist Churches on the second day

PLACE OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING



ZION'S HILL SCHOOL

Pictured above is a group of students at the old Zion's Hill school in Bladen County. Mrs. Roy Davis supplied the picture, and she believes it was made in either 1906 or 1907. The picture, as you can see, has aged somewhat through the years but most of the faces are still recognizable with some close scrutiny. Persons identified are, first row, left to right, Wilbur Edwards, Fred Hester, Ralsey Hester, Manley Hilburn, Dewey Hester, Roy Edwards, Bennett Hester and Ayers Davis. Second row, Willie Edwards, Mary Singletary, Carrie Edwards, Nicie Hester, Miss Cornelia Callihan, teacher, Frank Hilburn and Edith Davis. Third row, Myrtle Hilburn, Sally Singletary, Lydia Hester, Emery Hester, Sudie Hilburn, Mun Hester, Lennon Singletary, Colon Singletary, Grady Singletary, Edna Singletary and Ella Edwards.

of the meeting in 1978. In 1978 the church voted to build a parsonage and started a building program for one. A beautiful parsonage was built, the parsonage lot was landscaped and driveways were completed in 1980. An open house service was held on November 9, 1980.

In 1980, with a parsonage of its own, the church decided to acquire the services of a minister on a full-time basis. One was called, and he began a full-time service for the church effective on January 1, 1981.

On October 13, 1985, Zion Hill will acknowledge its first One Hundred Years of continued service in a Centennial Celebration. The church is elated to have survived. God has extended his love in the community through the function of Zion Hill. God's righteousness is exemplified as the church lives on, preaching and teaching his Holy Word.

We believe that our church is the evidence of a faith held by the charter members and was passed on to rising

generations within the church family. The church properties are a memorial to a life and work of a people, in covenant with one another, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

We celebrate in gratitude to God, and to each other within the church family. Not only are we honored by those who supported the church in ages past, but we celebrate in honor of our forefathers who believed in the cause of Zion Hill and upheld the church in a work that was inspired by their faith in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Many people, not only within our church, have sanctioned our cause with a word of encouragement, a good deed, a prayer, a gift. To each we pay tribute, and the value of each token or sanction can only be determined by God, and may the Christians throughout the next One Hundred Years at Zion Hill enjoy the same Christian heritage that we have.



CHARTER MEMBERS OF ZION HILL CHURCH

We regret that we do not have the roll of Charter Members of Zion Hill Church. However, we are able to list five names whose transfer of memberships were granted to constitute a new church. These names were shown in the records of the churches from which they came.

H. Francis Hilburn	Galeed Baptist Church	November 7, 1885
David H. Hilburn	Galeed Baptist Church	November 7, 1885
Rufus M. Hilburn	Galeed Baptist Church	November 7, 1885
Lucy H. Hilburn	Galeed Baptist Church	November 7, 1885
William A. Butler	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	September 26, 1885

We have reason to believe that there were members who came from other Baptist Churches to become charter members, but we are unable to find their record.

Upon the organization of the church, there were further transfers of membership in the year 1886 to become members of the church. Yet, we are unable to find records of all who we believe united with the church that year. The following is a list of those shown on record to have been granted a transfer of membership and the church from which they came.

Sally Hilburn	Galeed Baptist Church	September 1886
Amsy Hilburn	Galeed Baptist Church	September 1886
Issac F. Hilburn	Galeed Baptist Church	September 1886
Appie Edwards	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	March 1886
Sophia Edwards	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	March 1886

There is evidence that a large number of persons united with the church in its first year, although we do not have a record of these dear ones.

By October 1, 1886 the records of the Cape Fear Association of Baptist Churches show that Zion Hill had forty-one members.



CHARTER MEMBERS OF
ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH



WILLIAM A. BUTLER



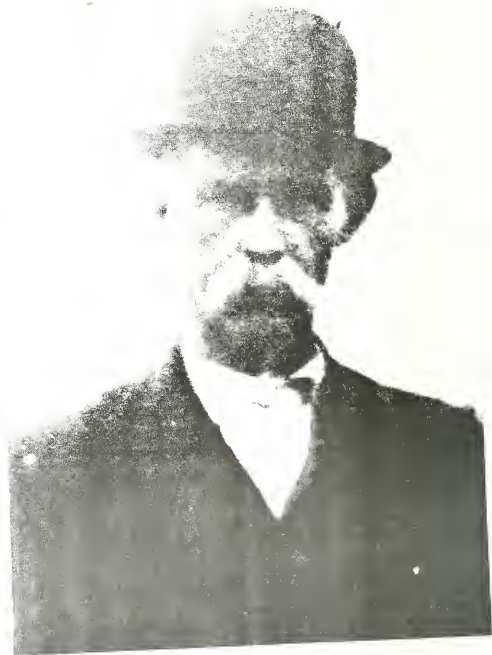
I. F. HILBURN



*CELIA EDWARDS
SOPHIA EDWARDS*



RUFUS & LUCY H. HILBURN



DAVID H. HILBURN

Charter Members Continued



AMSY & SALLIE B. HILBURN



HENRY FRANCES HILBURN

According to available records these are charter members who joined Zion Hill by letter of transfer during the first year.



ZION HILL CHURCH FAMILY 1950



THE CHURCH FAMILY 1973



ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Second Building



GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW SANCTUARY 1973

LEFT TO RIGHT: Willie Storms, Trustee; Sanford Cain, Member of Building Committee; Rufus A. Britt, Chairman of Building Committee; George W. Langby, Pastor; Kendrick Hester, Member of Building Committee.

In the background are church members and guests.



ZION HILL CHURCH FAMILY 1985

RULES OF DECORUM Early 1900's

1. The conference choose a moderator. The moderator to open conference by prayer.
2. The clerk to call the roll of members and notice absentees.
3. Reading the minutes of last conference.
4. Extend an invitation to visiting brethren.
5. Take and dispose of all unfinished business.
6. Inquire into the state of the church.
7. Open the door for the reception of members.
8. The moderator shall be addressed by the appellation of Brother Moderator, and it shall be his duty to keep good order while sitting.
9. No person to speak in conference without rising up and addressing the moderator.
10. No person to take any advantage of anothers slips or be intercepted while speaking except by the moderator.
11. No person to speak more than twice on one subject without leave from the moderator.
12. No brother shall be talking or laughing, or leave his seat while in conference without leave.
13. All motions made and seconded shall be debated, without it be withdrawn by the mover.
14. All motions to be decided by a majority of the brethren present.
15. The moderator to speak last on all subjects and give his views if he deems it necessary, but not vote unless divided.
16. Conference to be closed by prayer or praise at all times.

THE PASTOR'S MINISTRY

Zion Hill has been richly blessed by the wonderful leadership of the men of God. We have been fortunate in having younger as well as older, more experienced pastors.

Mrs. R. J. Hall, the First Associational Missionary once said "Bladen Association is a training ground for young ministerial students, and what a challenge for the churches here to lead them in the right way".

To know one's pastor should be to LOVE him. One member said, "I have loved every pastor I ever had". What a beautiful relationship. The church will grow where love abounds.

In the early years of Zion Hill Church the pastor was extended a call on a yearly basis. This routine was used by most Baptist churches at that time. Later the pastor was given an indefinite call with the understanding that either the church or the pastor could terminate the time of service when either felt the Lord leading.

The pastor seemingly must be 'all things to all people', if he is to be the Shepherd of the Flock. This surely implies a very heavy schedule. The congregation is often unaware of his responsibilities; however, each must respectfully consider the other for harmonous relationship. In the early years money was scarce and ministers received little to no pay from some churches, and one of our former pastors served six churches simultaneously. These early preachers would moderate the monthly conference on Saturday, preach following the business meeting then again on Sunday. These services were held only once each month. All our pastors have served the church well - each in his own time, and each in his own way. Who can ever realize or measure the effect or good done by each only God and eternity.

ZION HILL PASTORS DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS

Pastors who have served our church are listed in chronological order of their service.

Rufus M. Hilburn	1885-1890
George Caines	1891
J.M. Register	1892-1893
Rufus M. Hilburn	1894-1895
Joe Fisher	1896
W.M. Brisson	1898-1903
Rufus M. Hilburn	1904-1905
R.L. Byrd	1906-1917
H.H. Hildreth	1918
W.L. Brisson	1919
E.O. Johnson	1920-1924

K.L. Stanley	1925-1931
Paul T. Britt	1932-1935
Joel S. Johnson	1936-1944
C.J. Ellis	1945-1946
George H. Wallace	1947-1949
E.S. Lingle	1950-1953
Macon J. Davis	1954-1955
J.C. Shaw	1956-1960
Steve Hora	1961
Joe H. Dempsey	1962-1965
Clyde Coats	1966-1968
George W. Langley	1969-1979
Millard Johnson (Interim)	1980
Tim S. Sellers	1981

RUFUS MARION HILBURN
1885-1890, 1894-1895, 1904-1905

Rev. Hilburn was born in Bladen County on April 1, 1854, and was the son of Frank and Sallie Hester Hilburn. He received his higher education at the Ashpole Academy in Robeson County. He was ordained by the Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro. He was the moderator of the Bladen Baptist Association from 1906-1910. Rev. Hilburn was a charter member of Zion Hill, and was its first, third and seventh pastor where he ministered for a total of nine years. Part of this ministry was without salary due to the economic conditions of the day. He married Lucy Caroline Hilburn, and their children were Furney Austin, Franklin Fleetwood, Elvery Irvin, Theodore Clavius, Letitia Ann, Frederick Polk, Henry Marion, Lucy Naomi. He was indeed an able and dedicated minister. He died June 29, 1929, and is buried in the Old Hickory Grove Baptist Church cemetery.

GEORGE C. CAINES
1891

Rev. Caines was Zion Hill's second pastor, we do not have much history on him, but according to the Associational Minutes he was registered at the 1886 Annual Session of the Cape Fear Association. His address was listed as Orton, NC.

JAMES M. REGISTER
1892-1893

Rev. Register was born January 12, 1826 in the Lisbon area of Bladen County. He married Hettie C. Vann, and their children were: William James, John P., Isiah A., Sloan Maurice, Hawes B, and a daughter Missouri Ann. The son, Hawes B., helped organize the Elizabethtown Baptist Church. Rev. Register died August 14, 1895. He ministered in many churches in his beloved Bladen County.

JOSEPH G. FISHER
1896

Reverend Fisher was born in Robeson County on February 3, 1847. He was married to Susannah A. Lancaster-thirteen children were born to this couple. He is the grandfather of Mrs. Berline Baldwin of Clarkton, and F.M. Carroll, MD. of Chadbourn. He is also the grandfather of Mrs. Gladys J. Burch of Hope Mills, who furnished this information and photograph. Pastor Fisher died December 5, 1905.

WILLIAM MONTGOMERY BRISSON
1898-1903

Reverend Brisson was born in 1863, and died in 1961 at the age of 98. He was married to Harriet Allen and they had four children: Rufus, Hattie, Matilda and Daniel. He conducted Tent Revival Meetings in the early 1900's. He possessed a keen sense of humor, and was a man known to dress well; he also had a nice horse and buggy. His horse meant so much to him, and Reverend Brisson was known to personally put away his horse for the night in the stall of his host.

It was said that on occasions when he went for his horse in the morning that he would find the horse wet with sweat. The horse would appear very ill, but upon investigation it proved to be the work of pranksters.

ROBERT LEE BYRD
1906-1917

Reverend Byrd was born July 9, 1859 in Marion County SC. He was married to Elizabeth Fisher, who was a cousin of Joseph G. Fisher, our pastor in 1896. This couple had eight children, two of the sons are now living in Robeson County. Robert is living in the Barker Ten Mile community, and Charles is living near the home place in Tolarsville. Reverend Byrd was a preacher with solid Baptist doctrine. To him 'The Baptist was THE WAY'. He traveled mostly with horse and buggy-he traveled by buggy over 4,000 miles to Zion Hill alone-sharing the Gospel with the people. He was a person that was well known and loved, had a good sense of humor and could take a joke. He was known to take off swiftly and drive rather fast in his buggy, some of the young men of the Zion Hill community would time him from his first appearance in sight on the Abbottsburg road where it would take him exactly four minutes to arrive at the church. He was very good in driving his buggy, but not quite so good handling his Model T. Ford. There were times he had to push the car, only to discover that he had not even turned the ignition key. And there was the time he pulled his Model T with a mule; when the car started, he ran to catch it, but instead the car ran into the mule.

Reverend Byrd was involved in an auto accident and was hospitalized for quite some time. Later he had to wear a thick-soled shoe to correct the limp. He died December 21, 1950, and is lovingly remembered by many people.

J. H. HILDRETH
1918

The only information we could obtain about Reverend Hildreth was taken from the Cape Fear Baptist

Associational Minutes where it stated that 'Reverend Hildreth was a visitor from the Eastern Association, and was scheduled to have assisted in a revival in 1904 at Zion Hill but was unable to come.'

W. LEE BRISSON
1919

Reverend Brisson was born in 1878, and was later married to Mary Dowless. They had six children: Frank, Nathe, Ettie, Guthrie, Charlie W. and Celia. Reverend Brisson was a bi-vocational pastor. By trade he was a cooper smith; he also had a mill pond where he ground corn meal. He was known to have dressed well and to wear a derby hat. He was forced to retire early due to vocal problems.

EWEN OSCAR JOHNSON
1920-1924

Reverend Johnson was born September 20, 1873. He married Lula V. Rozier-they had three daughters and one son.

He attended Buies creek Academy, which later became Campbell University. He also graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. His home church was the Great Marsh Baptist Church in St. Pauls. Reverend and Mrs. Johnson were charter members of the First Baptist Church of St. Pauls. He is the great uncle of our Jimmy R. Britt.

KELLY LUTHER STANLEY
1925-1931

Reverend Kelly Luther Stanley was born February 22, 1895. He was married to Missouri Blanche Williams. This fine couple had five children: Wilma, Roger, Raymond, Thomas and Joseph.

Rev. Stanley was educated at Buies Creek Academy, Buies Creek, NC. He taught public school prior to entering the ministry.

Preacher Stanley was the twenty-fifth pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Bladenboro. After the death of his first wife, Rev. Stanley married Bessie Williams. This union brought forth one son. Rev. Stanley pastored several other churches in eastern North Carolina.

PAUL TALMAGE BRITT
1932-1935

Reverend Paul T. Britt was born near Orrum in Robeson County. He was married to Letitia Ann Hilburn.

Mrs. Paul Britt was the daughter of Zion Hill's first pastor. Rev. Paul T. Britt had two children by his first wife who died quite young; they were: Norlie and Eva. The children by Paul and Letitia Britt are: Rufus, Livingston, Lucy, Sidney, Ruby, Lolita, David, Elsie Mae and Pauline.

Preacher Britt was a true Bible scholar as was evidenced in his teaching and preaching; he was also known as a good counselor. He was the pastor of twenty-eight churches; two sons of Paul and Letitia are ordained ministers. Mr. Britt served thirty years as pastor of Broad Ridge Baptist Church in Robeson County. During the years of the depression he served many small churches without salary.

JOEL SNOWDEN JOHNSON
1936-1944

Reverend Johnson was born in Cumberland County in 1892, the son of Rev. W. R. Johnson. He married Teliah Jackson, they had six children; two sons and four daughters. One son, Weldon, answered the call to the ministry. Reverend Johnson attended Downing School and Buie's Creek Academy. During his ministry he pastored many churches in Bladen, Robeson and Cumberland counties.

CHARLES JUDSON ELLIS
1945-1946

Reverend Ellis was born March 5, 1893 in Green County, NC. He later married Cora Lamm, and the union had five children. This pastor died September 22, 1970, and is buried in the Raynham Baptist Church Cemetery in Robeson County.

GEORGE H. WALLACE
1947-1949

Reverend Wallace accepted Christ at the age of 16, and began his ministry at 28. As Reverend Wallace states, "I attended the University of Hard Knocks". He is a 'self-educated' preacher and continues to be a student. Married to Carrie Mae Wiggins they have four children, Hough a doctor, Charles a business executive, George a dentist, and Martha a school teacher. Reverend Wallace after many pastorates through the years is, along with his wife, with the George H. Wallace Evangelistic Association, Inc. in High Point. He states that "Zion Hill has stamped her self indelibly on my heart; the love and warmth of you people toward me and my family, your love and loyalty to God-as

well as the high regard for God's house will never be erased from my memory". Reverend Jerry Wallace, the former pastor of Elizabethtown Baptist Church, now the chairman of Religion at Campbell University is his nephew.

E.S. (Pete) LINGLE
1950-1953

He was a man who loved his Lord and was ambitious for Him in his ministry. Rev. Lingle attended the Pastor's School at Campbell College. During his ministry at our church, he was invaluable in his efforts to support the Women's Prayer Group which soon became North Side Baptist Church of Bladenboro. He dearly loved his Bible. White's Creek, his first pastorate in Bladen, presented him one; and his wife, Isabelle, states that he was buried with it in his hands. He and Mrs. Lingle had three children. He is well remembered at Zion Hill.

MACON J. DAVIS
1954-1955

Reverend Davis was born June 7, 1912 in Wilmington, and was ordained at Sunset Park there in August of 1954. He and Mrs. Davis had two children, Joan and Jimmy. He attended Fruitland Bible College, and graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He pastored Zion Hill and Galeed on half-time basis in 1954-1955. In 1956 he felt led to accept LaFayette Baptist Church in Fayetteville, where he served for four years. Reverend Davis served as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Manteo for three years until his death in February, 1963, at the age of fifty. Reverend Davis was survived by his wife, Martha, who later married Johnny Jordan. Surviving also are a daughter, Mrs. Locke Peeke and a son, Jimmy, who married Julia Hedgpeth of the Lennon's Cross Roads community.

J.C. SHAW
1956-1960

Reverend Shaw was born June 6, 1924 in Cedar Falls in Randolph County. He was ordained at Tabernacle Church in Troy, NC. He graduated from Fruitland Bible College and attended Southeastern Seminary. He and his wife, Grace, had two children, Lydia and Tim. He pastored Hickory Grove and Zion Hill in this area. Mr. Shaw was instrumental in getting the Educational Building constructed. It was built under his supervision and he actually assisted in the building of it-for which we are very grateful. His last pastorate was in Wilkesboro, NC.

STEVE HORA
1961

Steve Hora is remembered as a swift speaker, a person had to give his undivided attention to him otherwise, a part of message might be missed. He is remembered as having said, "I was secretly reading my wife's Baptist literature when I was converted from Catholicism, and shortly thereafter, was called of God into the Baptist Ministry". He and his wife were loved and appreciated as they worked with us at Zion Hill. He worked diligently with the Children's Choir and she with the missionary organizations. While pastoring our church, he, his wife and son resided in Fayetteville.

JOE H. DEMPSEY
1962-1965

Mr. Dempsey was born in Greer, SC, educated at Clemson University and Southeastern Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Phyllis, had two children, Leslie and David. He pastored both Zion Hill and Lennon's Cross Roads, he is lovingly remembered by both churches. He resigned to accept a full-time pastorate. He remembers the spiritual atmosphere of the church and her members, the growth in our Sunday School, the fact that we completed payment on the Educational Building, and set aside money for a new sanctuary while he was our pastor.

CLYDE W. COATES
1966-1968

Born June 27, 1930 in Wilmington, and was ordained in the Second Baptist Church in Dillon SC. He married Bessie Hyatt, and they have eight children. Education consists of Military Army Chaplain Division, Pastor's School at Campbell College, and Southeastern Community College. He says, "I remember the many souls added to your church, the cool water of Singletary's mill pond during the Baptismal Services, and the need to move the services outside due to the remodeling of the sanctuary." "And I remember especially the two young men God called into the ministry while I was there". These men were Ronald Hester and Merle Johnson who are doing a great service for our Lord at this present time.

GEORGE W. LANGLEY
1969-1979

Reverend Langley was born July 24, 1922 in Richmond County, and was ordained by the Piney Grove Bap-

tist Church in Rockingham. He married Monnie Morre, and to this union was born three children, Georgia, William and Michael. He says, "It was wonderful to be the pastor of Zion Hill during her years of growth, we built the sanctuary and the parsonage because the people had a mind to work; new members were added to the church, and the love, faithfulness and support I appreciate and will remember". Rev. Langley continues to pastor Abbottsburg Baptist Church.

MILLARD M. JOHNSON
Interim Pastor 1980

A spiritual giant, a joy to listen to as he so ably presented the sermon. He was a kind and loving person and pastor of Clinton, NC.

TIM A. SELLERS
1981

Tim Sellers was born September 23, 1939 in Robeson County. He was ordained by Clybonville Baptist Church in Lumberton. He and his wife, the former Edna Chaison, have three children, Jonathan, Rhoda and Jill. Mr. Sellers attended Mars Hill College, graduated from Campbell University, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has his Master of Divinity, and is working toward a Th.M.. He has pastored in Virginia as well as in North Carolina. Mr. Sellers came to Zion Hill in 1981, and he and his family mean so very much to our church. Much has been accomplished under his leadership and direction, and we just know that there will be much more.



GEORGE C. CAINES
(No photo available)
 1891
 Second Pastor



RUFUS M. HILBURN
 1st 1885 - 1890
 4th 1894 - 1895
 7th 1904 - 1905



JOSEPH G. FISHER
 1896



*J.M. REGISTER
1892 - 1893*



*ROBERT L. BYRD
1906 - 1917*



*W. MONTGOMERY BRISSON
1898 - 1903*

*(No photo available)
J. H. HILDRETH
1918*



*W. LEE BRISSON
1919*

(No photo available)
K. L. STANLEY
1925 - 1931



EWEN O. JOHNSON
1920 - 1924



JOEL S. JOHNSON
1936 - 1944



PAUL T. BRITT
1932 - 1935



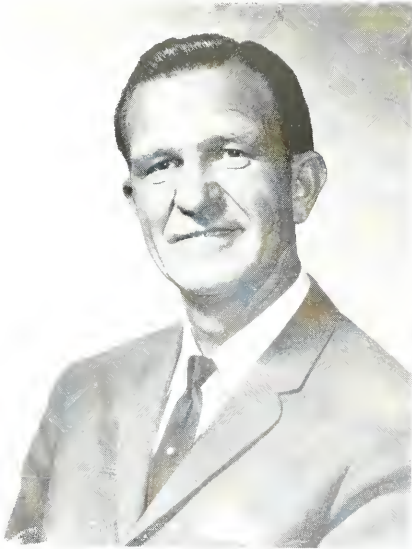
CHARLES JUDSON ELLIS
1945 - 1946



GEORGE C. WALLACE
1947 - 1949



MACON J. DAVIS
1954 - 1955



E. S. (PETE) LINGLE
1950 - 1953



J. C. SHAW
1956 - 1960

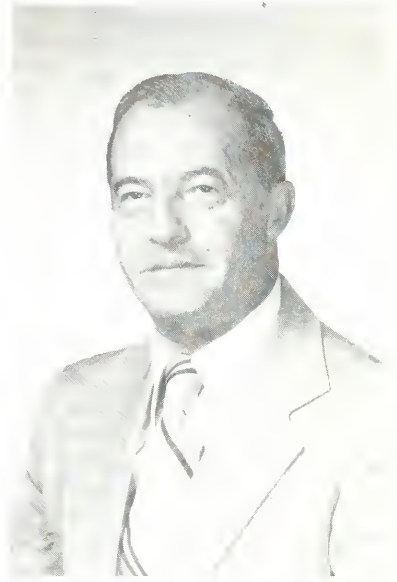
(No photo available)
STEVE HORA
1961



JOE H. DEMPSEY
1962 - 1965



GEORGE W. LANGLEY
1969 - 1979



CLYDE W. COATES
1966 - 1968



MILLARD M. JOHNSON
Interim Pastor
1980



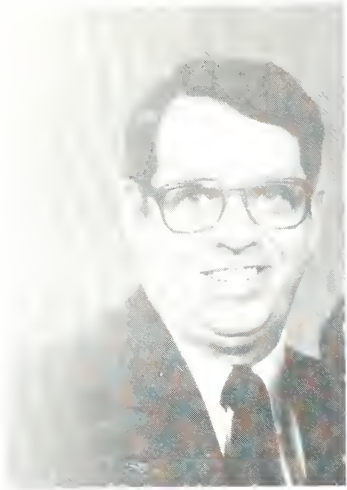
TIM SELLERS
1981 -

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH ORDAINED INTO THE MINISTRY



David H. Hilburn was born in 1860, and was the son of Frank and Sally Hester Hilburn. He was a licensed preacher and ordained to the ministry on April 4, 1881, at Zion Hill Baptist Church by the presbytery called for that purpose. G.C. Caines and R.M. Hilburn officiating. He and his brother, Rufus M. Hilburn, were charter members of Zion Hill. He was a well-known minister and preached at many churches in this area. He was married to Fannie E. Freeman, daughter of J. Gilmore Freeman, Sr., and Sarah J. Lennon Freeman, and they reared three sons and two daughters. He died on June 25, 1929, just four days prior to the death of his brother, Rufus M. Hilburn; he is buried at the Singletary's Cemetery in Butters, North Carolina.

ORDAINED MINISTERS FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP



JAMES RONALD HESTER

Ronald Hester was born January 1, 1941, son of Robert James and Myrtle Cain Hester. He graduated from Bladenboro High School and Fruitland Bible Institute. He and his wife, Betty Carol Coleman, have three children, Sue, Ronda and Alan.

Ronald was ordained into the ministry in October 1970 at Zion Hill. He has pastored in Bladen, Robeson, Columbus and Wilmington Associations. He is at present the pastor at Walstone Memorial Church in Fayetteville, NC.



MERLE ASHLEY JOHNSON

Merle is the son of Eliza H. Johnson and the late Willard Johnson. He was born and grew up in the Zion Hill Community, and married the former Marlene Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Smith also of Zion Hill. They have two sons, Michael 19, Dwayne 17, and one daughter Daphne 9.

Merle was ordained at Zion Hill Baptist Church on June 17, 1973. He is a graduate of Bladenboro High School and Fruitland Bible Institute. His first pastorate was Rock Springs Baptist Church in Darby, NC. His other pastorates have included Gap Creek, Deep Gap, NC, Westside Church, Red Springs, White's Creek Church, Bladen County, and First Baptist Church, Maxton, where he is presently serving.



DEACONS OF ZION HILL CHURCH

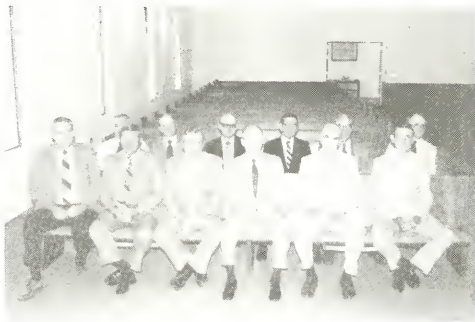
The names of persons ordained into the office of Deacon are listed alphabetically. The list may be incomplete for lack of record

Bowen, Pearl M. Bowen, Jr.
Brisson, Gene F.
Britt, James Roy, Sr.
Britt, James Roy, Jr.
Butler, William A.
Cain, Sanford P.
Coleman, Vollie A.
Davis, Chaston
Davis, I. Roy
Davis, Willie I.
Edwards, John H.
Hales, Ammie C.
Hales, Tommy E.
Henry, Jesse M.
Hester, A Kingbury
Hester, Dewey H.
Hester, J. Ronald
Hester, Mun M.
Hester, Robert J.
Hester, R. Kendrick
Hilburn, H. Francis
Hilburn, Issac F.
Hilburn, James D.
Johnson, J. B.
Johnson, Lynn A.
Kriener, James P.
Nance, Paul
Pait, Theron B.
Smith G. Wilson
Smith, George W.
Smith, Gerald R.
Suggs, Major
White, Hutchinson B.



DEACONS 1950

Left to Right-Jessie Henry, Dewey H. Hester, I. Roy Davis, J. Roy Britt, Theron B. Pait, A Kingberry Hester, Pearson Ellis.



DEACONS 1985

Left to Right- (first row) Vollie Coleman, Gerald Smith, Wilson Smith, Theron Pait, George Smith, William Butler. Second Row-Tommy Hales, P.M. Bowen, Jimmy R. Britt, Sanford Cain, Kendrick Hester, Tim Sellers.



TRUSTEES 1985

Left to Right-Vollie Coleman, Gerald Smith, Charles Johnson.

CHURCH CLERKS

Following is a list of persons who served in the position of church clerk. The list may be incomplete for lack of records.

William A. Butler	1886
A. A. Hilburn	
Monroe Hester	
J. L. Bryan	1922
M. M. Hester	-1938
Pritchard R. Davis	1939-1940
Dewey H. Hester	1941-1948
Rufus K. Hester	1949-1956
James D. Hilburn	1957-1960
James R. Britt, Jr.	1961-1973
Sanford P. Cain	1974-1985
Penny R. Johnson	1985-

TREASURERS OF THE CHURCH

The names of persons who served in the position of Treasurer are listed in chronological order of their service to the church.

S. Walter Singletary
 Monroe Hester
 Mun M. Hester
 Ammie C. Hales
 Fred G. Hester
 James D. Hilburn
 Robert J. Hester
 Theron B. Pait
 Vollie A. Coleman

EXPENDITURES OF ZION HILL CHURCH IN 1903 (REPORT TO BLADEN ASSOCIATION)

Pastor's Salary	\$20.00
Incidental Expenses	16.94
Minute Fund	.75
Association Missions	1.00
State Missions	2.00
Home Missions	1.50
Foreign Missions	2.60
Education	2.50
Orphanage	1.75
Minister's Relief	1.75
Other Objects	1.00
	\$51.54

Church Membership in 1903 63

STEWARDSHIP

We do not have records that show a full accounting of finances in the early years of our church. But, there are some Sunday School records that show contributions of less than one dollar for most Sundays in the first twenty-five years. We are advised that there were two accounts kept in the early years of the church, one for the pastor's salary, and one for the Sunday School, and/or, the General Fund. The pastor's salary was subscribed to by the method of pledges which was called for from each member, and we have records of special action taken by the church, in which it excused some members from paying into the pastor's salary because they were unable to do so.

Funds were often raised by passing the hat for special offerings solicited for several causes. The fact that the Church Meeting House was erected in the year 1886, but not ceiled until 1904 indicates that money was very scarce during this time. Special donations were taken for benevolences to the poor and needy within the church community. There were other special collections taken for such things as: Home, State and Foreign Missions, the Orphanage, Sunday School Literature, hymn books, and musical instruments.

As was the fashion of most rural churches in the area, Zion Hill called its pastors for quarter-time service for the first sixty-five years. Pastors were compelled to find their livelihood elsewhere. Sometimes a pastor would serve more than one church, preaching on alternate Sundays or in some cases, preaching at one church for the Morning Service and at another church for the Evening Service. Many pastors labored on a job, trade, or profession and pastored churches. We are thankful for the dedication of these pastors who served our church so well under difficult circumstances.

Around the year 1932 Zion Hill discontinued soliciting money through pledges. Generally, contributions were put in a General Fund, except for special collections. The general economy of the state and nation began improving which was reflected in the tithes and offerings to the church. Following the guidelines adopted by the church in 1954, it began a more responsible stewardship program through the preparation of a church budget.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

In 1931 the total value of all Zion Hill Church property was appraised at \$1,000.00.

In 1984 the total value of all Zion Hill Church property was appraised at \$407,000.00.

Copied from a Sunday School Record Book of 1898, "Honesty is the best policy". "It is hard for an empty bag to stand upright".

Copied from a Sunday School Record Book for Sunday, December 22, 1907, "The Sunday School also resolved to carry on the Sunday School through the winter months".

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

BUDGET 84 - 85

A. FOR LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT		
1. PASTOR'S SALARY	12,500.00	
2. REVIVALS (200.00 Each)	400.00	
A. Pastor's Revival Expense (100.00 Each)	200.00	
		13,100.00
3. EXPENSES		
A. Literature	2,850.00	
B. Social Program & Refreshments	400.00	
C. Vacation Bible School Supplies	400.00	
D. Library	200.00	
E. Christmas Program & Gifts	600.00	
		4,450.00
4. OPERATING EXPENSES		
A. Heating, Cooling & Lights	5,500.00	
B. Insurance	800.00	
C. Convention Expense (Southern)	650.00	
D. State Convention	150.00	
E. Evangelistic Conference	100.00	
F. Secretary (Part-time)	1,400.00	
G. Social Security	500.00	
		9,100.00
5. MAINTENANCE, BUILDING & GROUNDS		
A. Custodian Salary	6,305.00	
B. Cleaning Supplies	300.00	
C. Equipment & Grounds Maintenance	1,200.00	
D. Water Conditioner (Rent)	300.00	
		8,125.00
6. MISCELLANEOUS		
A. Benevolence	1,200.00	
B. Flowers	250.00	
C. Other Items	600.00	
D. Pastor's Retirement (Annuity Board S.B.C.)	1,450.00	
E. Pastor's Utilities	1,800.00	
F. Pastor's Hospital Insurance	1,712.40	
G. Christian Action League	500.00	
H. Pastor's Automobile Expense	3,000.00	
I. Office Supplies	750.00	
J. Pastor's Life Insurance & Disability	254.40	
		11,516.80
B. FOR DENOMINATIONAL OBJECTS		
1. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM	3,000.00	
2. ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS	845.00	
3. THROUGH SPECIAL OFFERINGS:		
A. N.C. State Mission Offerings	1,350.00	
		5,195.00
<hr/>		
LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT	46,291.80	
DENOMINATIONAL OBJECTS	5,195.00	
TOTAL CHURCH BUDGET		51,486.80

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH Church Roll 1936-1937

Male Members

Britt, David
 Britt, P.T. (Rev.)
 Bryan, J.L.
 Butler, Livingston
 Butler, Thurman
 Cain, M.M.
 Cain, Sanford
 Davis, Alton
 Davis, Chaston
 Davis, C.V.
 Davis, Pritchard
 Davis, Roy
 Davis, Shelton
 Davis, Willie
 Willis, J.A.
 Dove, T.S.
 Edwards, D.T.
 Edwards, Grover
 Guyton, David
 Hammonds, G.A.
 Henry, Jessie
 Hester, A.K.
 Hester, Dewey
 Hester, E.E.
 Hester, Fred

Hester, Leo
 Hester, M.M.
 Hester, Opie
 Hilburn, Guy
 Hilburn, James
 Hilburn, I.F.
 Hilburn, Manly
 Hester, Robbie
 Pait, Theron
 Storms, Willie
 Walter, Harry
 Walter, Scott
 White, Gilmore

Female Members

Abott, I.H.
 Anders, Emma
 Britt, Elsie Mae
 Britt, Latetia
 Britt, Ruby
 Britt, Loleta
 Bowles, Tessie
 Brown, Allene
 Butler, Mildred
 Butler, Sallie M.
 Cain, Helen

Cain, Evelyn
 Carroll, Bessie
 Davis, Ethel
 Davis, Kate
 Davis, Sadie
 Davis, Vivian
 Dowless, Sallie
 Dove, Myrtle
 Dove, Verdie
 Dowless, Larue
 Dowless, Sallie
 Edwards, Beulah
 Edwards, Hannah
 Edwards, Lummie
 Edwards, Mary A.
 Edwards, Rosa Lee
 Estees, Edna
 Ezell, Thelma E.
 Goodin, Mary T.
 Guyton, Kate
 Hester, Edith M.
 Hester, Eliza
 Hester, Gladysteen
 Hester, Jessie S.
 Hester, Kate
 Hester, Lonnie
 Hester, Martillia

Hester, Mary
 Hester, Mary Edith
 Hester, Miram
 Hester, Myrtle
 Hester, Rometta
 Hester, Ruby Mae
 Hester, Thelma
 Hickman, Versie
 Hilburn, Deborah
 Hilburn, Elizabeth
 Hilburn, Eula
 Hilburn, Lucy C.
 Hilburn, Ruth
 Hilburn, Sallie
 McKaskill, Mary
 Shaw, Ruby
 Singletary, Leota
 Singletary, Mary
 Smith, Mary
 Sykes, Maggie
 Thompson, Etta Mae
 Thompson, Gracie
 White, Linnie B.
 White, Lula
 Williams, Esther
 Williams, Margie
 Wilson, Larma

THE BELL

Zion Hill Church was a happy recipient of a bell, courtesy of The Southern Railway Company, in 1947. Upon learning that the Southern Railway Company was salvaging bells from locomotives, which were being replaced, Mrs. Kate S. Davis wrote a letter to the company officials asking for a bell, which she wanted placed in the belfry of the Church Sanctuary. The company in a very gracious manner made a gift of the bell to the church. The bell was used to announce the time for regular services until the sanctuary was removed in 1974. The new sanctuary was not made to accommodate the bell; therefore, it was placed on a pillow that is located adjacent to the front view of the sanctuary as a symbol to all those who wish to worship.



ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

1985 Church Roll

Male Members

Bowen, P.M., Jr.
 Brisson, Bennie
 Brisson, Gene
 Brisson, Glenn
 Brisson, Ricky
 Britt, James Courtney
 Britt, James R., Jr.
 Britt, Stanley
 Britt, William K.
 Brown, Lee Roy
 Bryan, Carlton
 Bryan, Glenn
 Bryan, Julian
 Bryan, Michael
 Butler, Billy
 Butler, Donald
 Butler, Livingston
 Butler, William
 Cain, Sanford
 Campbell, Jerry
 Canady, Charles
 Carter, Nicky
 Coleman, Andy
 Coleman, Edgar C.
 Coleman, Jack
 Coleman, Vollie
 Davis, Alton
 Davis, Bennie
 Davis, McRae
 Davis, Ronnie
 Dove, Gaston
 Dove, Kevin
 Edwards, Grover
 Edwards, Charles K.
 Edwards, Johnny Boyd
 Edwards, John Henry
 Edwards, Terrence
 Gainey, Lonnie
 Hales, John Bradley
 Hales, Thomas E.
 Hales, Tom
 Hester, Adrian
 Hester, Billy III
 Hester, Ernest
 Hester, Earl
 Hester, Ennis
 Hester, Dewey H.
 Hester, Ewen
 Hester, Kendrick
 Hester, Gordon
 Hester, Hiram
 Hester, Kenneth

Hester, Livingston
 Hester, Robert
 Hester, Robbie
 Hester, Rodney
 Hilburn, Douglas
 Hilburn, Guy
 Hinson, James
 Horton, Douglas
 Horton, Stephen
 Johnson, Billy
 Johnson, Charles
 Johnson, Derrick
 Johnson, Lynn
 Johnson, Jason R.
 Johnson, J.B.
 Johnson, Jeff
 Kinlaw, Arnold
 Kinlaw, Harold
 Kinlaw, Robert
 Kriner, Charles
 Kriner, James S.
 Kriner, Jimmy
 Kriner, Johnny
 Langley, William
 Leggett, William
 Nance, Paul
 Pait, Freddie
 Pait, Theron
 Pait, Ralph
 Peterson, R.E.
 Russ, Raymond
 Sellers, Jonathan
 Sellers, Tim
 Singletary, Ronald
 Singletary, Worth, Jr.
 Singletary, Worth, Sr.
 Smith, Barry
 Smith, Christopher J.
 Smith, Darryl
 Smith, Ernest
 Smith, Erwin
 Smith, George
 Smith, Gerald
 Smith, Wilson
 Storms, Earl
 Storms, Willie
 Thompson, Thomas
 White, Clarence

Female Members

Anton, Mary Elizabeth
 Bowen, Lucy
 Brisson, Doris
 Brisson, Patsy
 Brisson, Onnie
 Britt, Helen
 Britt, Myrtle
 Britt, Pamela P.
 Brown, Allene
 Bryan, Elizabeth
 Bryan, Susan
 Bryan, Sylvia
 Butler, Louise
 Butler, Marilyn
 Burney, Isabel
 Cain, Evelyn
 Campbell, Becky
 Carroll, Bessie
 Carter, Susan
 Coleman, Harriet
 Coleman, Hilda
 Coleman, Margaret
 Coleman, Teresa
 Comis, Connie B.
 Davis, Lena
 Deaver, Lorraine
 Dove, Jane
 Dove, Ila
 Edwards, Kathleen
 Edwards, Leona
 Gainey, Martha
 Gooden, Jacqueline
 Guyton, Joyce
 Guyton, Rose Marie
 Hales, Brenda
 Hales, Ethel
 Henry, Ruby
 Hester, Angela
 Hester, Benita
 Hester, Brenda
 Hester, Daisy
 Hester, Esther
 Hester, Ettaree
 Hester, Gia
 Hester, Gladys
 Hester, Jenny Louise
 Hester, Lisa L.
 Hester, Lisa M.
 Hester, Louise
 Hester, Margaret
 Hester, Mary Russ
 Hester, Miriam

Hester, Myrtle
 Hester, Vivian
 Hester, Vonda
 Hickman, Betty
 Hilburn, Eula
 Hinson, Tammy
 Horton, Nettie Jane
 Johnson, Eliza
 Johnson, Joy
 Johnson, Laura
 Johnson, Lola
 Johnson, Jeanie
 Johnson, Paula
 Johnson, Pearl
 Johnson, Penny
 Kilby, Elaine
 Kinlaw, Miriam
 Kriner, Bobby Ann
 Kriner, Tina Marie
 Lamb, Paula
 Lassiter, Marilyn B.
 Leggett, Judy
 Matheson, Marcia
 Mote, Linda L.
 Nance, Winnie
 Packer, Mickey R.
 Pait, Gladysteen
 Pait, Leola
 Pait, Phyllis
 Pait, Renee
 Pendergrass, Carolyn
 Peterson, Ruth
 Rhodes, Patsy
 Russ, Elizabeth
 Russ, Hazel
 Sellers, Edna
 Sellers, Jill
 Sellers, Rhoda
 Singletary, Eva Mae
 Singletary, Sandra
 Singletary, Wanda
 Smith, Cecilia
 Smith, Etta Mae
 Smith, Grace
 Smith, Jane
 Smith, Mazelle
 Smith, Rosa Lee
 Storms, Betty
 Storms, Mildred
 Stubbs, Celeste
 Thompson, Isabel
 Thompson, Sue
 White, Alma Mae

MILITARY SERVICE IN WORLD WAR I AND II

Listed below are the names of men who, while members of Zion Hill, served in the Military Forces.

World War I

O. Frank Hilburn
Fred G. Hester

World War II

Pritchard R. Davis	Sanford P. Cain	J. Erwin Smith
Harry L. Walter	Grover J. Edwards	R. Edwin Davis
T.S. Dove	R. Kendrick Hester	Edwin B. Dove
Livingston F. Butler	W. McRae Davis	Clyde A. Dove
Theron B. Pait	Dewey H. Hester, Jr	George W. Smith
*David P. Guyton	T. Edward Tilley	Willard A. Johnson



The following who served in the military after World War II.

Britt, Harry B.	Davis, James Alton	Hester, Earl
Britt, Paul J.	Davis, Ray	Hester, Hiram
Britt, William K.	Dove, Edwin	Hilburn, Cherry B.
Davis, Amy Ray		Hilburn, Douglas J.

*David P. Guyton was killed in line of duty on the Island of New Georgia in the South Pacific on August 1, 1943.

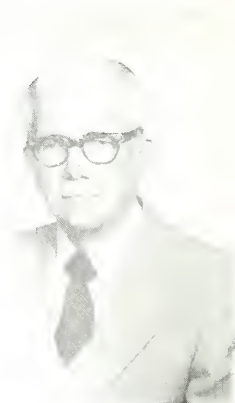
BLADEN ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARIES



MRS. R. J. HALL



MRS. RUTH PRINCE
1966 - 1980



REV. DWIGHT COOPER
1981 -

BAPTISM



The beautiful Singletary's Pond, with its deep blue waters and evergreen cypress trees, is truly a masterpiece of nature. This place with its quiet serenity and natural beauty holds treasured memories for many because it was here that they were, "Buried in the likeness of His death" and "Raised in the likeness of His resurrection."

Today our churches are blessed with indoor baptistries which are appropriately and attractively designed for comfort and convenience.

Whether in a church baptistry with temperature control, or in the sometimes chilly waters of an out-door pond, as followers of Christ we are thankful for the sacred ordinance of Baptism, which symbolizes our salvation from sin.



REV. TIM SELLERS, GRACE SMITH, RALPH PAIT - 1985

Mar 24 19

191

1	W. B. Williams.	100	W. B. Weston
2	W. B. Williams.	101	W. B. Weston
3	W. B. Williams.	102	W. B. Weston
4	W. B. Williams.	103	W. B. Weston
5	W. B. Williams.	104	W. B. Weston
6	W. B. Williams.	105	W. B. Weston
7	W. B. Williams.	106	W. B. Weston
8	W. B. Williams.	107	W. B. Weston
9	W. B. Williams.	108	W. B. Weston
10	W. B. Williams.	109	W. B. Weston
11	W. B. Williams.	110	W. B. Weston
12	W. B. Williams.	111	W. B. Weston
13	W. B. Williams.	112	W. B. Weston
14	W. B. Williams.	113	W. B. Weston
15	W. B. Williams.	114	W. B. Weston
16	W. B. Williams.	115	W. B. Weston
17	W. B. Williams.	116	W. B. Weston
18	W. B. Williams.	117	W. B. Weston
19	W. B. Williams.	118	W. B. Weston

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

When we try to establish the beginning date of our Sunday School, we conclude that the Sunday School, in a sense predates the organization of our church. Although, we do not know the actual beginning date, a group of dedicated Christians living in the community held prayer meetings on successive Sundays. They read and discussed selected scriptures of the Bible. These services were first held in a saw mill shanty, and later in the Community School House. We are advised that the idea for a church in the community was conceived with this Sunday Prayer Meeting Group. Upon organization of the church, the leaders of this Group affiliated with the church and influenced it to adopt these meetings as a church function, which was referred to later as Sunday School.

From the beginning of the church, Sunday School has been under the direction of the church program, and has been an integral part of the entire church organization. The Sunday School services were held each Sunday, except in the early years when the weather was bad, and because the facilities for heating were inadequate, some services had to be skipped.



*ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
AROUND 1934*

Under Church Administration, the Sunday School has always been under the direction of a person elected by the church to serve as its Superintendent (Director). Along with this officer, a person is elected to be Secretary of the Sunday School to keep an accumulative report of attendance and the money received. Through the Sunday School the church has grown and seeks to minister to persons of all ages and in all walks of life.

Prominent in Sunday School has been the singing of hymns and gospel songs, reading and teaching of the Holy Word, and prayer. The receiving of tithes and offerings for the church, and offerings for special occasions, recitations and announcements of church and community projects.

The Sunday School for Zion Hill in 1886 consisted of forty-one members. By 1898 the Sunday School was divided into a Bible Class and a Primary Class. In 1906 the School consisted of a Bible Class and a Card Class. Records show that the purchase of literature began in 1899. In 1955 the Sunday School consisted of the following classes: Adult, Womens, Young People, Intermediates, Juniors and Beginners. In 1957 a Departmentalized Sunday School was started for Adults, Young People, Youth, Children and Nursery — all of which were broken down as needed into classes by age group and in some cases by sex.



BEGINNER CLASS - 1934

Teacher, Versie Hester, State Representative of Sunday School Workers

Vacation Bible School is a phase of the Sunday School work. The first Vacation Bible School was conducted in the summer of 1947. Miss Beatrice Douglas, a student of Campbell College working in the Summer Missions Program of the Baptist State Convention, assisted with conducting the first VBS at Zion Hill.

In the early years VBS, under the Church Leadership Committee, publicized and sought to enlist all the children within our community for Bible study, hand-work and for fellowship. In later years adults also became involved. Vacation Bible Study affords varied opportunities for christian witness and for intensive Bible study.

January Bible Study is a phase of Sunday School work. The first Bible Study was conducted about 1957. One book of the Bible is studied intensively at each annual meeting.



PAUL PREACHES

Third Quarter—Sept. 9, 1928

PAUL TELLS OF JESUS IN TWO GREAT CITIES

Paul had left Silas and Timothy in Berea. Now he walked the streets of Athens all alone. There was nobody in all that big city who loved Jesus. Everywhere he looked he could see idols and statues of gods which they worshipped. It made him sad to see so many people who did not know the true God.

Standing on the street corners, he talked to the people. The wise men of the city asked him to come into the court-house and tell them his story. Paul was glad to go. He told these wise men about the one true God. He said: "He loves you and sent his Son to save you from your sins."

The wise men did not believe Paul. Some of them laughed at him. He did not mind being laughed at, or beaten, or stoned, or put in prison. All these things had happened to him before. But he could not bear for people not to believe in Jesus. Sadly he went on to another big city, Corinth.

The people in Corinth were very wicked. But Paul knew that Jesus came to save sinners. He told them about Jesus and his great love for them. Many believed. Paul stayed in Corinth nearly two years, telling the story of Jesus.

CAN YOU TELL?

What made Paul unhappy in Athens? What made him happy in Corinth? What did he tell the people everywhere he went?

Terms: 1 c. per quarter. 10 c. per year. Published quarterly by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn. Entered at Nashville, P. O. as second class matter. Printed in U. S. A.

Issued July 1, 1928.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CARD LESSON 1928

SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTORS

The names of persons who have served in the position of Superintendent (Director) are listed in chronological order of their service.

David H. Hilburn
 H. Francis Hilburn
 W. A. Butler
 I. F. Hilburn
 A. J. Freeman
 Monroe Hester
 I. F. Hilburn
 A. Z. Davis
 Jasper Edwards
 S. Walter Singletary
 Monroe Hester
 Emery E. Hester

a. Kingsbury Hester
 Mun M. Hester
 Theron B. Pait
 James Roy Britt
 Theron B. Pait
 Dewey H. Hester
 Theron B. Pait
 Hutchinson B. White
 R. Kendrick Hester
 William A. Butler
 R. Kendrick Hester

Wilson Smith
 Ronald Hester
 Merle A. Johnson
 James Roy Britt, Jr.
 Lynn A. Johnson
 Sanford P. Cain
 Vollie A. Coleman
 Charles K. Edwards
 William A. Butler
 Charles K. Edwards
 Gene F. Brisson
 Gerald R. Smith



TWO-THREE YEAR OLDS: Sylvia Bryan, Teacher, Jeffery Brisson, Todd Pait, Ashley Johnson, Gladysteen Pait, Teacher, Daniel Hester



NURSERY: Jennifer Brisson, Alan Kinlaw, Lola Johnson, Teacher



FOUR-FIVE YEAR OLDS: Dan Kinlaw, Brett Carter, Edna Sellers, Teacher



BIBLE LEARNERS: Bert Brisson, Penny Johnson, Teacher, Travis Pait, Nettie Horton, Teacherr, Brad Leggett



BIBLE DISCOVERS: Ferra Johnson, Jane Smith, Teacher, Valissa Hester, Grace Smith, Gia Hester, Kevin Brisson, John Hales, Susan Bowen



YOUTH A: Ginnie Hester, Jill Sellers, Susan Bryan, Audra Hester, Charles Johnson, Teacher, Michael Bryan, Bill Hester, Chris Smith, Derrick Johnson



SINGLES: Al Coleman, Worth Singletary, Jr., Jonathan Sellers, Ernest Smith, Carlton Bryan, Paula Johnson, Darryl Smith, Margaret Hester, Teacher



YOUTH B: Evelyn Cain, Teacher, Laura Johnson, Rhoda Sellers, Robbie Hester, Steve Horton, Andy Coleman, Barry Smith



YOUNG MARRIED: Miriam Kintaw, Vonda Hester, Doris Brisson, Tommy Hales, Teacher, Kenneth Rhodes



ADULT MEN & WOMEN: Vollie Coleman, Susan Carter, Nick Carter, Kendrick Hester, Teacher, Julian Bryan, Judy Hester, Benita Hester, Wilson Smith, Etta Mae Smith, Gerald Smith, Glenn Brisson, Ava Brisson, Judy Leggett, William Leggett, Kenneth Hester, Glen Bryan, Hilda Coleman



DORCAS CLASS: Esther Hester, Kathleen Edwards, Mazelle Smith, Eula Hilburn, Onnie Brisson, Ethel Hales, Eliza Johnson, Teacher, Daisy Hester, Betty Hickman, Allene Brown, Myrtle Hester, Eva Singletary, Martha Gainey, Ruby Henry, Leola Pait



ADULT LADIES CLASS: Elizabeth Bryan, Louise Butler, Midred Storms, Vivian Hester, Teacher, Ettaree Hester



SENIOR ADULT MEN: Sanford Cain, Terrence Edwards, Theron Pait, Teacher, Bill Storms, Ralph Pait, Lonnie Gainey, William Butler, George Smith, Jimmy Britt, LeeRoy Brown, Ernest Hester, P.M. Bowen, Jr., Worth Singletary, Relmond Peterson

BAPTIST TRAINING

Zion Hill Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) was organized on November 17, 1929. The society was reorganized into two groups.

The following officers were elected that night:

Pritchard Davis President
 Rena Cain Vice President
 Alton Cain Secretary
 Emma Pait Corresponding Secretary
 A.K. Hester Quiz Leader
 Emery Hester Chorister
 Allene Cain Group Captain No. 1
 Ethel Hester Group Captain No. 2
 Mrs. Lonnie R. Hester Organist

The society was to meet each Thursday night at 7:30. At the conclusion of the business part, a motion was made to adjourn till time and course, Thursday night, December 5, 1929.

Pritchard Davis, President
 Alton Cain, Secretary



CHURCH TRAINING - 1985: Travis Pait, Ferra Johnson, Gia Hester, Jill Sellers, Grace Smith, Gennie Hester, Ruby Henry, Gladysteen Pait, Rhoda Sellers, Chris Smith, Derrick Johnson, Julian Bryan, Kathleen Edwards, Eliza Johnson, Elizabeth Bryan, Allene Brown, Wilson Smith, Etta Smith, Laura Johnson, Theron Pait, Ernest Smith, Gerald Smith, Jonathan Sellers, Barry Smith, Rev. Tim Sellers, LeeRoy Brown.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

In 1910 Mrs. Betty S. Singletary organized our first Woman's Missionary Union, and served as the president. She served for two or three years, at which time she moved out of our church community. Upon her leaving the program lapsed or ceased to function for several years. In 1946 Mrs. R.J. Hall was instrumental in reorganizing the W.M.U. Mrs. LeeRoy Brown was elected president. In 1947 the Girl's Auxiliary, under the direction of Mrs. Gladysteen Pait, was organized, and she served as the first leader of the group.

Through the years the dedicated Christian women of the W.M.U. have been personally involved in love and interest of all who live in our church community, as well as for all others. When hardship, illness or death have affected any of our members, they have gone into the home with consolation, food and the giving of themselves in any way needed.

Our Woman's Missionary Union has as one of its chief objectives the helping in foreign fields under the patronage of the Foreign Missionary Board the highlight of which is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Another

objective of our organization is Home Missions. We have grown through the years, and in this Centennial Year we have approximately fifty-two members in the different organization. Our offerings to Home and Foreign Missions for this year were:

Annie Armstrong (Home) \$650.00
 Lottie Moon (Foreign) 925.00

We truly feel that God has blessed our work in this Woman's organization as 'laborers together with Him'.

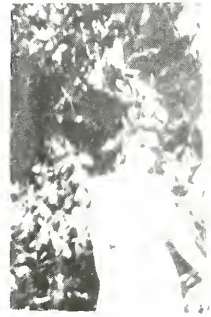
The names of person who served in the position of Director (President) of the W.M.U. are listed in chronological order of service.

Betty S. Singletary Grace Shaw
 Allene C. Brown Gladysteen H. Pait
 Emma P. Hickman Louise P. Butler
 Allene C. Brown Helen M. Britt
 Daisy C. Hester Allene C. Brown
 Allene C. Brown Lola K. Britt
 Mildred M. Storms .. Helen M. Britt .. Monnie M. Langley



BETTY S. SINGLETARY

Mrs. Singletary was the first president of the Zion Hill Woman's Missionary Union in 1910.



ALLENE C. BROWN; Mrs. Brown was the first president after reorganization.



GLADYSTEEN H. PAIT; Mrs. Pait organized the first G.A.'s and served as leader for many years.



LOUISE P. BUTLER; Mrs. Butler is the present W.M.U. Director.



BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN: Sylvia Bryan, Penny Johnson, Susan Carter, Benita Hester, Judy Leggett.



GIRL'S AUXILIARY: Gia Hester, Grace Smith, Sylvia Bryan, Leader, Susan Bryan, Ferra Johnson, Audra Hester



ACTEENS: Ginnie Hester, Jill Sellers, Rhoda Sellers, Laura Johnson, Penny Johnson, Leader, Margaret Hester, Leader



ROYAL AMBASSADORS: Ernest Smith, Derrick Johnson, John Hales, Chris Smith, Glenn Bryan, Leader, Jonathan Sellers, Barry Smith. Michael Bryan, Kenneth Hester, Leader



ZION HILL YOUTH 1960-1985

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."(Ecclesiasties 12:1)

A main ingredient for a church is its young people. The youth department should be brought up in a nurturing spirit in order that they may fulfill the duties of the church as it ages.

Zion Hill Baptist Church takes this time to share with you some of the events and people that upheld the name of the Zion Hill Youth since 1960. To begin our look into the past, we find young people eager to be used for the Lord's church. In the 1960's such people as Delores Hester Holcomb, Ewen Hester, Linda Hester Mote, Jeanette Watson, and two others (unknown) presented an idea to form a choral group and later a youth organization was established.

Between the years 1962 and 1972 Zion Hill had a very strong youth choir which consisted of : Charles Bowen, Danny Ray Bowen, Becky Bowen, Hiram Hester, Susan Butler, Billy Butler, Jane Davis, Nancy Davis, Karen Wilcox, Emily Butler, Mary Elizabeth Hester, Murray Hester, Judy Bowen, Pam Pait, and Patsy Bowen. This group was consistent in practicing for around ten years.

In the latter seventies those who participated in the youth Choir included: Carlton Bryan, Joy Johnson, Marilyn Butler, Harriet Coleman, Paula Johnson, Tammy Johnson, Darryl Smith, Ernest Smith, and Teresa Coleman. Later, when they became a part of the church, Jonathan and Rhoda Sellers joined the youth choir.

At the present time, 1985, Michael Bryan, Gia Hester, Ginnie Hester, Derrick Johnson, Laura Johnson, Jill Sellers, Rhoda Sellers, Barry Smith, Chris Smith, and Grace Smith make up our Zion Hill Baptist Youth Choir.

Over the years, the youth of the church have experienced times of fun and fellowship. Beginning in 1977, Ridgecrest (Southern Baptist Assembly), became a part of their summer spiritual enrichment and enjoyment.



RIDGECREST GROUP 1982 - Left to Right (front row) Laura Johnson, Lisa L. Hester, Paula Johnson. Second Row, standing: Barry Smith, Lyn Jonson, Counselor, Lisa M. Hester, Jonathan Sellers, Teresa Coleman, Darryl Smith, Ernest Smith, Robbie Hester, Rodney Hester and Lola Johnson, Counselor.

Other activities that the youth have been a part of are cookouts, and fund raisings, such as window washings, raking leaves and car washes.

There are many spiritual aspects for youth participation. One such aspect is missions. It consists of the Acteens, for girls, and Pioneer Royal Ambassadors, for teen boys. These members become aware of their environment and learn what their role is in the community.

The girls that have made Acteens possible are Doris Bryan Brisson, Marilyn Butler, Harriet Coleman, Theresa Coleman, Ginnie Hester, Lisa Lynnette Hester, Lisa Marie Hester, Robin Hester, Jackie Horton Gooden, Laura Johnson, Joy Johnson, Paula Johnson, Rhoda Sellers, Jill Sellers, Beth Storms and Rebecca West. These girls have been led by Elizabeth Bryan, Margaret Hester and Penny Johnson.

Boys who have contributed to the Pioneer Royal Ambassadors are: Michael Bryan, Kevin Davis, James Dove, Bill Hester, Rodney Hester, Derrick Johnson, Randy Johnson, Buddy Kriner, Tony Sessoms, Danny Singletary, Barry Smith, Chris Smith, Greg Sykes, Jr., Andy Coleman, Ricky Todd, and Jonathan Sellers. These young men were instructed by Glen Bryan, Kenneth Hester, Charles Johnson, Carlton Bryan and Al Coleman.

As this historical summary indicates, the Zion Hill Baptist Youth over the past twenty five years have had their ups and downs, their good times and their tough times. Special thanks is given to all who made our youth groups possible and thanks to the Lord for keeping us together in one Spirit. It is certainly acknowledged that we may have possibly left some person's name out that was a vital part of our youth work. If we have neglected to mention anyone, we do apologize. Submitted by Ginnie Hester.



FIRST RIDGECREST GROUP FROM ZION HILL, 1937. Left to Right-(First Row)-Livingston Butler, Deborah Hilburn. Second Row-Elizabeth Hilburn, Gladysteen Hester, Theron Pait and Pritchard Davis.

B.Y.P.U. (BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLES UNION)

Mr. Alton Cain and wife Rena, with assistance from Miss Louise Adams, from Sandy Grove Missionary Baptist Church organized and nurtured the Training Union in its early years.

The name changed later to Baptist Training Union (B.T.U.). The organization extended into more Departments and recently to Church Training-“Equipping for Discipleship”. Today there is a place for every member of the family, from nursery through adult. Literature is provided by the church. Participation is encouraged.

Mrs. Ruby H. Henry is Director; Mr. Sanford Cain is Secretary. Others leading are: Adults, Mrs. Henry, Rev. Sellers; Youth, Mr. Gene Brisson, Mr. Ernest Smith; Children, Mrs. Etta Mae Smith; Pianist, Mrs. Kathleen Edwards.

Several children and youth (boys and girls) have entered the Bible Memory work and Bible Drill work. In years gone by some were local and state winners. Two sisters, (Helen and Frances Hester) excelled and were each

three year winners at the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Ft. Caswell, Southport, North Carolina, in Memory Work Drills.

Recently, Jonathan Sellers participated in the Youth Speakers Tournament; he won the local, regional, and was a runner-up on the state level.

In 1937, the first group of B.Y.P.U. members went to Ridgecrest; others have gone since for Sunday School, Youth Celebration and Music Week.

For several years the youth leaders and counselors and others have been sponsored by the church. The accommodations at Ridgecrest are second to none. The programs have been superb and the experience life-lasting. One simply can never forget Ridgecrest. It is now a Southern Baptist Convention Conference Center. These young people are having wonderful experiences in preparation for our leaders in the near future.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Zion Hill has always been richly blessed through the years with many who loved music. Because they felt that their God-given talent should be used in His service, they gave themselves unselfishly.

These wonderful people further prepared themselves through local music schools, public schools, private lessons, and college.

In the early years the congregational singing was without the aid of an instrument. In 1907 the first designated gift of \$2.30 was received for an organ fund-at that time money for any and all causes was hard to come by-but, soon a total of \$4.00 had been pledged for an organ. After enough funds had been received, a manual pedal organ was purchased, and was used for more than twenty years. The organist for those early years truly performed a labor of love.

During the thirties an upright piano was purchased. By that time the economy had improved, and God had blessed Zion Hill with a larger membership. Some of those who served our church as an organist or pianist are: Sudie Hilburn, Lonnie Hester, Letitia Hilburn Britt, Eula Hilburn, Etta Mae Smith, Kathleen Edwards and Gordon Hester. Also there have been many talented youth musicians: Thyra Brown, Joyce Dove, Judy Bowen Leggett, Becky Bowen Campbell, Lisa M. Hester.

Zion Hill purchased an electric organ in the early seventies. This instrument continues to contribute to the beauty and joy of our worship.

Mrs. Kathleen Edwards has probably given the longest continuous years of service as Music Director. This year, 1985, will complete her twenty-fifth year. She has given unselfishly of her time and talent to all the areas of our church music ministry. *“Thank you Kathleen for your perfect attendance here as well as in Sunday School. We pray for many more years of your service.”*



KATHLEEN EDWARDS

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC & SONG



LYN JOHNSON

Lyn Johnson has served faithfully our church for many years as Choir Director and Song Leader.



ADULT CHOIR: Kathleen Edwards, Eliza Johnson, Etta Mae Smith, Penny Johnson, Marilyn Butler, Louise Butler, Lola Johnson, Myrtle Hester, Judy Leggett, Tim Sellers, Gerald Smith, Kendrick Hester, Charles Johnson, Wilson Smith, Gladysteen Pait



YOUTH CHOIR: Gia Hester, Grace Smith, Rhoda Sellers, Laura Johnson, Ginnie Hester, Jill Sellers, Chris Smith



CUSTODIAL MINISTRY

During the first seventy-five years of our church existence, the female members counted, 'the cleaning of the church building as a labor of love'. The only exception to this general sharing plan was in the summer of 1941, when a young high-school graduate, Kendrick Hester, was elected custodian before entering college in the fall. He did a fine job in this capacity. Also, about this time a teenager, Jimmy Britt, mowed the lawn each Saturday, as needed, with a horse-drawn mowing machine. Fred G. Hester was elected and served as custodian for several years after 1941. Later the church developed a family plan for cleaning the church buildings and yards on a monthly basis. This plan continued for a number of years.



R. E. PETERSON

On August 4, 1974, R.E. Peterson was elected to this ever-growing area of service. He did the repairing, painting and anything else to make the church buildings as comfortable as possible. He also cared for the upkeep of the lawns. In this capacity he really was 'all things to all people.' Mr. Pete was always helpful in the request for bulletin boards and stands for the church teachers. His was a beautiful ministry of unselfish love and devotion to Zion Hill Church. In October of 1984 health problems necessitated his resignation. 'Brother Peterson everyone loves and appreciates what you have meant to our church.' The custodial position was soon filled by Ernest Hester who is continuing the excellent care of the church and grounds. With this new responsibility came a real plus for the church. Ettaree, his wife, has a florist next door to the church, and regularly places a beautiful floral arrangement in the sanctuary. The church really appreciates your effort and service.

PARSONAGE



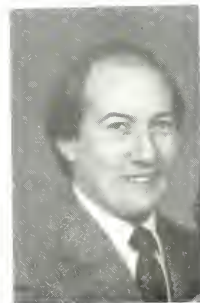
PARSONAGE BUILDING COMMITTEE

William Leggett, Pearl Johnson, Gerald Smith



PARSONAGE

Dedicated in 1980



NICK CARTER

Designer & Contractor of Present Parsonage

ZION HILL'S AFFILIATION WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Upon the organization of Zion Hill, and in the course of time, the church presented a letter of petition for admission into the Cape Fear Baptist Association of Churches.

Upon finding a satisfactory evidence of the orthodoxy of the new church, it was received by the Association and the right-hand of fellowship was extended to the delegates, H.F. Hilburn, and W.A. Butler, who were attending the Eighty-Second Annual Session of the Association held with the Abbotsburg Church, October 19-22, 1886.

The Cape Fear Baptist Association, in its Eighty-Eight Annual Session, October 20-23, 1892, granted a letter of dismission to Zion Hill, and to other churches, for the expressed purpose of aiding the formation of an association of Baptist Churches located within Bladen County.

Bladen Baptist Association — a meeting of the Baptist Churches in Bladen County was called in October, 1892, at Brown Creek Baptist Church to discuss the organization of a Bladen Baptist Association. Delegates at the meeting decided to organize. On November 11, 1892 delegates from several churches in the county met at Mt. Pleasant Church in Lisbon and organized the Bladen Association. Zion Hill was a charter member of the Bladen County Association of Baptist Churches.

CHURCH CONSITUTION

Zion Hill from the beginning has been a self-governing body, guided by christian and democratic principles, to insure its members equality of privileges. Those who remembered the organization of the church said that the members involved in organizing the church had a mind of preserving and securing the principles of faith to the end that the body be governed in an orderly manner, and be consistent with accepted tenets of Baptist Churches from which the charter members came.

Early in 1954 it became evident that the church did not have a written constitution or by-laws on which it could rely at times when there was indecisiveness in procedures to follow in business meetings. On February 14, 1954 the church appointed the following to serve on a committee, which was assigned the task of drawing up a constitution for the church: R. Kendrick Hester, Hutchinson White, Theron Pait, Allene Brown and Myrtle Butler. The committee acquired the services of Reverend Henry E. Walden, Director of the Rural Church Department of the NC Baptist State Convention. The committee came forth with a constitution and by-laws, that was adopted by the church on April 11, 1954. The constitution set forth the identity of the church, the purpose of the church, and the guide lines for church administration.



OUTSIDE VIEW OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Prayer is the life-line of Zion Hill Church. Our church was a blessing granted by God to a small group of dedicated Christians that met weekly for prayer in the year 1885.

One of the greatest blessings in the Christian's life is the privilege of talking with the Heavenly Father. The believer has access into the very throne of God, and there he can open his heart and express his needs with confidence. According to Hebrews 4:16, we are to 'come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need'.

In the early years of the church, most of the people in Zion Hill were farmers engaged in the production of crops and livestock. They held a faith in the Sovereign God, recognizing their dependence upon Him, for any productivity and increase. The church would hold an annual fast day in the spring, meet at the sanctuary about midmorning and enter into prayer, exercising their faith in God for every blessing. The annual fast day ceased as the church began weekly prayer meetings.

The church began a weekly prayer meeting service in 1950 when a pastor was called for half-time service. At this time the pastor, who lived in or near the church community, would lead the prayer meeting on alternate weeks. In 1981, a pastor was called for fulltime service, and he leads the services or secures someone when he has to be absent.

Special requests for prayer have always existed in the life of Zion Hill. Some special needs for prayer have been for a sick person, a person undergoing a hardship, cottage prayer meetings for revivals, the need for rain, and for our nation and people when the country was at war.

For many years now we have observed a Thanksgiving-Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. The service is well attended, and has proven to be one of the most spiritual blessings our church offers.



*DINNER ON THE GROUNDS
(Around 1920)*

Food, Fellowship and the "Love of God" brought us out on special occasions such as this.



This mode of transportation was used by our early preachers and members.





INSIDE VIEW OF THE SANCTUARY



*PAINTINGS BY GLADYSTEEN PAIT
Depicting the three church buildings from 1885 - 1985*

On June 2, 1974 the church appointed Prichard R. Davis, George W. Smith and Gladysteen H. Pait to serve on a Committee to landscape the grounds surrounding the sanctuary. The lot was graded, parking areas were paved, shrubery was set, grass was planted and walkways were established.

LAND ACQUISITIONS

Elizabeth Ann Butler designated a plot of land for a church before 1885. A deed for this plot was never recorded even though buildings were erected on the plot. (Photograph of her is not available.)



EDITH MARTILLA HESTER

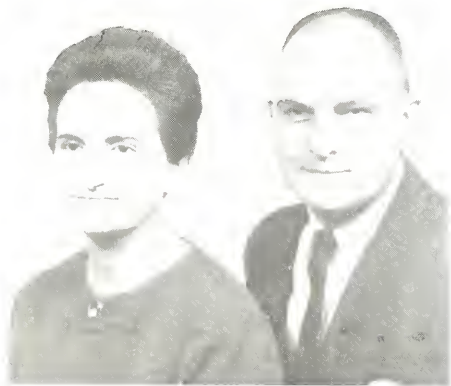
In 1939 Edith Martilia Hester and children granted a deed to carry out the wishes of Eltzabeth A. Butler, their mother and grandmother.



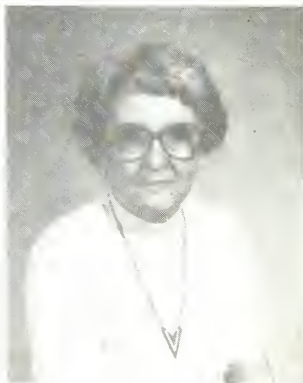
EDITH AND FRED HESTER

1969

Edith and Fred Hester gave land to the church on two occasions.



In 1975 Hilda Hester Coleman and Vollie Coleman gave land.



In 1979 Gladys Hester gave land, as requested by her late husband, Steve Hester, for a pastorium.

LIGHTER AND HUMOROUS INCIDENTS THAT HAPPENED IN OUR CHURCH

This episode took place on the opening night of a Fall Revival - the first one to be held in our new block building.

There was a large crowd present that Sunday night late in September. The summer heat was still with us and the building was not yet screened. To provide cooling, the doors were opened wide. The preliminaries were over, the singing was done. The Pastor had introduced the visiting preacher and he and the pianist, Mrs. Eula Hilburn, had taken their seats.

The speaker began his sermon introduction, trying his best to impress upon each one the **grave importance** of the hour. In a slow, high pitched voice he asked everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes and think very seriously about where they stood in relationship to God.

From, who knows where, this under-fed, scrawny, half-grown kitten cried himself all the way up the aisle to the rostrum. It was terrible! no one could laugh, no one really wanted to (would you?). Of course, no one moved, -but - something must be done! Mrs. Eula knew what to do. She very quickly and very quietly caught that cat by the neck, much as it's mother would do, and disappeared out the side door. There was, naturally, a little commotion in the congregation - Mrs. Eula came back, took her seat as if nothing had happened. But where was the cat?? As its so happened, the columns by the side steps had not been capped and the hole in the block was open. Someone, thank goodness, had left a brick lying there. No, she didn't hit the kitten — she had gently pushed him into the hold in the block and covered him up-noise and all - with the brick.

Another incident involving an unwelcome visitor happened several years later when Mr. Clyde Coates was the pastor.

It was Thanksgiving morning. The folks had gathered for the sunrise service. Pastor Coates had driven all the way from White Oak across the Cape Fear to be with us a seven o'clock.

There were songs, testimonies and Thanksgiving prayers, then it was time for the pastor's message. Just as he was getting into the sermon there was a sudden outburst of noise from behind.

Brother Kendrick recognized the sound and rushed out the nearest door. The noise stopped and he promptly returned. The pastor resumed his speaking - but then - it came again, even louder! Mr. Coates called on Brother Kendrick to go and 'make the necessary adjustments'. It was a very industrious woodpecker just checking out the metal cover of the attic fan. This time the ungrateful creature was frightened away and the service was concluded in peace.

The following incident was probably funny to everyone but Lyn Johnson. To him it was 'no laughing matter'.

That Sunday morning the rain was really coming down. The pastor, Joe Dempsey, was just getting into his sermon when outside an auto horn began to blow-Lyn thought it sounded just like his truck horn. He drove the truck that day since his wife, Lola, was staying home with sick children. So, he went out in the rain to investigate. But, by the time he was down the steps, it stopped. He came back inside and took his seat - oops! there it went again! Of course, again, Lyn went out, just as before, by the time he was outside, the blowing stopped. He took his seat-and-then the **third** time, it started again - this time a continuous honking. Lyn, at this point, was determined to put a stop to this nuisance even if he got soaked in the process. He plunged right out in the downpour and over to his truck-only to discover that it wasn't his truck at all, but the car next to him. Oh dear! It seemed he would never get it stopped, so he just snatched the wire loose from the horn and that did it. At Last! Well, as you can guess by now he was dripping wet and not too happy. Rather than go back inside and completely disrupt the service he climbed into his truck, cranked up and went home. No one inside knew exactly what had happened.

Later in the afternoon, Mr. Rufus Britt was talking with Lyn's father-in-law, Gaston Dove. Mr. Britt was expressing sympathy for Lyn and his truck horn. By then, Mr. Gaston had learned whose horn it really was, so he said to Mr. Rufus, "But it wasn't Lyn's truck, it was your wife's car, Rufus, and Lyn pulled the wire loose to stop the horn from blowing".

Does anyone remember the names of roads and places in Zion Hill Community such as:

Bama Lam Branch
Calf Ford
Pat's Goose Hole
Gander Landing
Deep Hole
Cotton Road
Boggy Ground Road
Hundred Log Drain
Dan Cain Crossing
Over Gingerberry Island
Hog Bay Road
Big Bay
The Cabbage Road

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



The Centennial Committee would like to say to our church, 'Thank You' for the confidence and trust that you placed in us for this great responsibility. Even though the task was tremendous, our lives have been enriched and enlightened through this opportunity.

As members of the Committee, we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to all those who have contributed in any way to our Centennial Publication. For the many hours of research and planning, for each mile traveled, for numerous phone calls and visits made and for the prayerful support of fellow Christians we are sincerely thankful.

Due to the fact that many of our early church records were lost, there may be errors and omissions in our history. We have worked diligently to compile a printed presentation of facts and information from various sources and individuals.

A special thanks to the following for information and assistance: Galeed Church, Hickory Grove Church, Wanda Campbell, Lonnie Gainey, Myrtle Hester, Donald Butler, Ernest and Ettaree Hester.

If in any way our publication enriches your spiritual development, or your understanding of our religious heritage, we would like for you to give all praise to our Heavenly Father.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 25, 1985

To the Congregation of
Zion Hill Baptist Church:

Congratulations on the occasion of your 100th anniversary.

Religious faith has always been the essence of strength for free peoples. As guardians of this faith, our churches and synagogues seek to continually renew the spirit of brotherhood, family, and concern for one's fellowman embodied in the Judeo-Christian tradition. This is the spirit that built and preserved our freedom and made us a humane and God-fearing people. From early times the fire of faith has burned brightly all across this land, and as long as it lives, so will the America we cherish.

As we commemorate this anniversary, let us all resolve to revitalize the spirit of community which sustains us. Let our wisdom be vindicated by our deeds. And when our work is done and the busy world is hushed, then may God in His mercy give us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last.

Again, congratulations and God bless you.

Ronald Reagan

Now travel with us back through the years at Zion Hill Church and see who you might know.



MR. A. C. HALES



*JUNIOR CLASS OF ZION HILL CHURCH
Kendrick Hester, Sanford Cain, Terrence Edwards, Johnnie Edwards*



Wilson Smith, Thyra Brown (Baldwin), Janice Smith (Taylor)



WEBB L. BURNEY



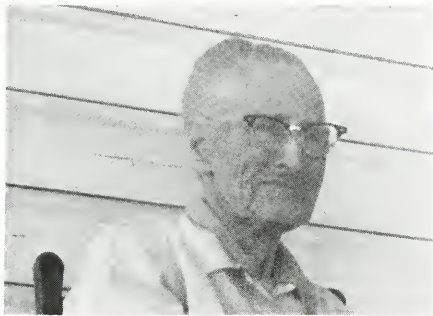
EWEN HESTER



Jerry Davis, Joe Hester, Billy Johnson, Frances Hester, Phil Pait, Mark Pait Aubrey Hester, Matthew Pait, Pansy Johnson, Debora Johnson, Emily Johnson, Rose Marie Pait, Mary Edith Johnson, Phyllis Pait



ISABELLE G. BURNEY & GRADY BURNEY



Mary Elizabeth Hester, Helen A. Cain, Sue Hester



BETTY PETERSON



*KINGBERRY & MARY R. HESTER
Deacon*



INOGENE PAIT



*ALTON CAIN
First B.Y.P.U. Director*



*LINDA PETERSON - Soloist
THYRIA BROWN - Pianist*

WILBUR & JOYCE DOVE WARD

*J.K. "Kelly" & JOANN DOVE
BALDWIN*

DAVID & MICKEY RUSS



CONNIE BRISSON

First G.A. Member to complete the requirements to be a G.A. Queen



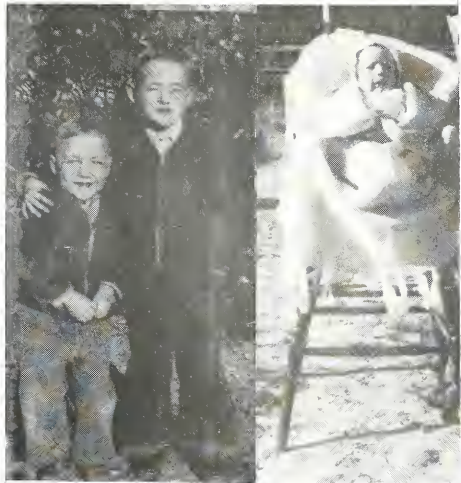
*Tammy Johnson Hinson, Terry
Hinson, Joseph Hinson*



JOHN & MARY JANE STUBBS



*Home constructed from part of 1st church building. Home
of Elsie Singletary, built by Colon Singletary, former
member.*



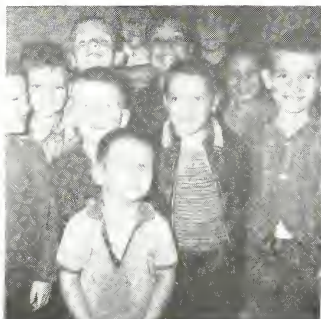
DOUGLAS, CHERRY & WINSTON
Children of James D. & Eula S. Hilburn



Laura, Paula, Tammy & Joy Johnson



LEFT TO RIGHT: Susan Butler, Pansy Johnson, Judy Bowen, Emily Butler, Emily Johnson, Patsy Bowen



LEFT TO RIGHT: Charles Ross, Jackie Ross, Jackie Coleman, Ray Davis, Edgar Coleman, Danny Ray Bowen, Gene Nance, Murray Hester Walter Davis, Billy Butler, Gene Nance, Murray Hester, Walter Davis, Billy Butler, Ronnie Davis, Hiram Hester



LEFT TO RIGHT: Cecila Smith, Emily Butler, Becky Bowen, Mary Elizabeth Hester, Emily Johnson, Linda Gooden, Susan Butler, Karen Wilcox, Patsy Bowen, Marcia Dove, Nancy Davis, Jane Davis, & Judy Bowen (Absent, Phyllis Pait)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ernest Smith, Tammy & Paula Johnson, Marilyn Butler, Daryl Smith, Joy Johnson, Beth Storms



GORDON M. HESTER
Now an organist in the church



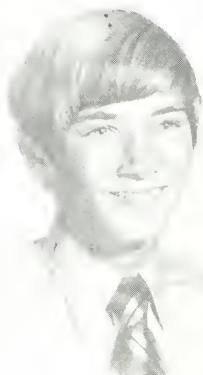
NURSERY 1961
Esther Hester, Murry Hester, Tim Shaw, Grace Shaw and Pamela Pait



SANDRA HESTER



LYNDA HESTER

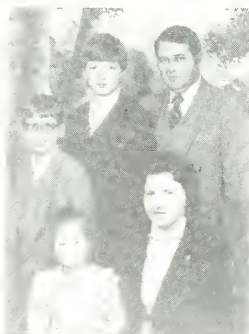


AL HESTER

Children of Gladys & Steve Hester



ELIZABETH W. SMITH
Granddaughter Marlene



REV. MERLE JOHNSON,
MARLENE & CHILDREN
Michael, Dwayne, Daphne



JANICE S. & JIMMY N.
TAYLOR



JAMES ERWIN SMITH FAMILY



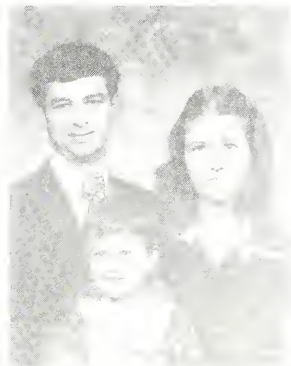
LOTTIE BELL & EDGAR SMITH



MERLE AND JOEL JOHNSON
Children of Willard and Eliza Johnson



MIRIAM KINLAW



ANTHONY HESTER,
WIFE GAIL & SON TONY
*Saved in Zion Hill V.B.S. now
full time minister Robeson Co.*



ADA BETH HICKMAN



*Once G.A. now missionary in S.A., and mother, Emma P.
Hickman, once Zion Hill W.M.U. President*



BOBBY



HAROLD



MICHAEL

Grandsons of Dewey & Miriam Hester



SAM ANDREWS
(Former Member)



KELLY RENAYE PAIT
*Youngest Member
- Sunday School - August, 1985*



F. ROW: *Palema Pait, Janet Storms*
B. ROW: *Nancy Davis, Karen Wilcox,
Mary E. Hester*



Ronald Hester, Robert Hester, Delores Hester, Kenneth Hester, Mary Elizabeth Hester, Adron Hester



*MRS. MARTHA H. STORMS & CHILDREN
Bennie Lee, R. J., Byron, Katie Mae, Bill, Alma Grey,
George Albert, Tessie, Earl Storms*



LIVY HESTER, DAISY C. HESTER



*ILA & GASTON DOVE WITH GRANDCHILDREN
David, Mickey, Lynn, Paula, Joe, Mary, Tammy, Allen,
Dan, and Joy*



*MIRIAM P. HESTER & SONS
Hubert & Ennis*



*SCHOOL DAYS
1945-46*



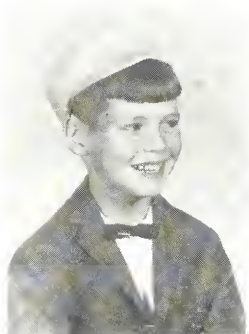
*Lydia Shaw, Roger Duck,
Missionary to Columbia South
America, E. Matthew Pait*



James Roy Britt, Sr., Ila J. Britt, James Roy Britt, Jr., William (Bill) K. Britt



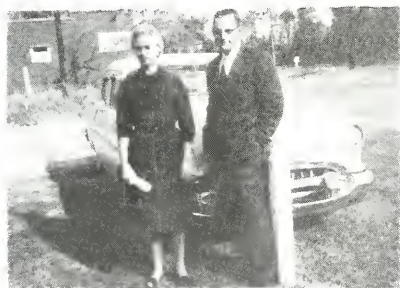
JIMMY BRITT, HELEN BRITT



JAMES COURTNEY BRITT



Nettie Sue Britt,



RUTH S. PETERSON, RELMON PETERSON



ALPHA DAVIS



Jack, Margaret & Andy Coleman



URSIE DAVIS & EDWIN DAVIS



MARY DAVIS DAVID PAIT



Chaston Davis, former deacon, Sunday School teacher, and his wife Sadie



Matthew Pait, Emily Johnson, Teac. Lena Davis, Nancy Davis, Teac. Sadie Davis, Edgar Coleman, Hiram Hester, Billy Butler



*SUNBEAM BAND 1926
Leader Mary Davis, Leota and Emily Hilburn, Leo Hester, Emma Hickman, Bruce Blanton, Bution Blanton, Davis Blanton, Monroe Blanton, Buyron Storms, Alene Cain, Myrtle Cain, Robbie Hester*



Walley Pittman, wife Delia and daughter Yvonne



Former Deacon and Sunday School teacher Major Suggs, wife Itus, Dorothy, Jackie and Major Ray



Dave Edwards, Mary Ann Edwards



Myrtle Hilburn Butler, Thurman A. Butler



*MRS. MARTILLA BUTLER HESTER
(Land Donor)
& FAMILY*

Lydia H. Hayes, Mrs. "Tillie", Edna Brisson, Dewey H. Hester, Fred G. Hester, W. B. (Blies) Hester, A. Kingsbury Hester, M. Mun Hester, Emery E. Hester



*ISSAC F. HILBURN, WIFE SALLY & CHILDREN
Mary, Ruby, Leota, Sudie, Emily, Deborah, Myrtle,
Elizabeth, Frank, Woody, Manley, Guy and James*



M. M. Hester, Sudie H. Hester, Tennessee in lap, Elden, Hattie Jane, Martilla, Rometta, Thedford, Versie M., Leo M., Gladsteyn & Opie



*COY EDWARDS & FAMILY
Grover, Mother Lummie, Terrence & Beulah*



*EVANDER SINGLETARY FAMILY
Walter, Evander, Hattie, Haynes, Nancy E. (Wife), & Lydia*



*CELIA SINGLETARY
Early church member, daughter of E. Evander Singletary*



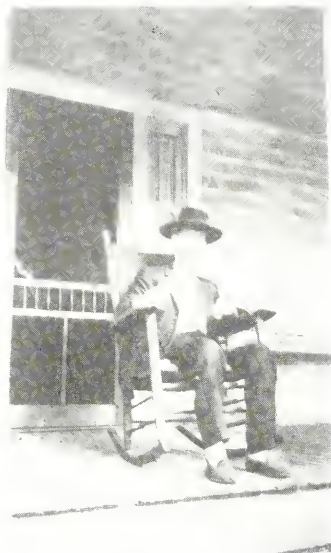
*HAYNES SINGLETARY
(Former Member)*



HUBBARD PAIT AND COY EDWARDS



LINA J. HESTER



THOMAS HESTER



Willie H. Edwards, Thomas Edwards, Liza H. Edwards



M. D. Edwards, Harry L. Walter, Scott Walter



Pearl B. & J. B. JOHNSON (Deacon)



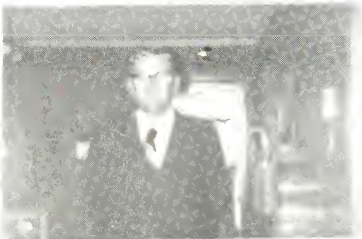
We would like to recognize Donald Butler for his contribution of photography in this booklet.



*MR. & MRS. J.A. DOVE
She is a former pianist.*



*LEOLA H. & RALPH PAIT
50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
Jerry, Phyllis P. Pait, Dorothy P. Johnson, Rose P. Mariner, Horace, Mark, Imogene P. Price, Phillip (Not shown, Raeford & David)*



*WILLARD JOHNSON
Former S. S. Teacher, Jr. Boys
Mmeber of 1953-54 pulpit committee*

CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

October 13, 1985

10:00 Sunday School Hour	<i>Gerald Smith, Director</i>
Sunday School Lesson	<i>Theford Y. Hester</i> <i>First Baptist Church</i> <i>Lumberton, N. C.</i>
11:00 Morning Worship	
Doxology	<i>Page 514</i>
Invocation	<i>Pastor</i>
Hymn of Praise	<i>"To God Be The Glory" Page 41</i>
Welcome and Recognition of Visitors	<i>Mr. Theron Pait</i>
Responsive Reading	<i>No. 1</i>
Morning Prayer	<i>Mr. Kendrick Hester</i>
Hymn	<i>"The Old Rugged Cross" Page 93</i>
Offertory Prayer	<i>Mr. Sanford Cain</i>
Worship with Tithes and Offerings	
Dedication of the Centennial Publication	<i>Mrs. Gladysteen H. Pait</i>
Choir	<i>"Holy, Holy, Holy"</i>
Sermon	<i>Reverend Sidney Britt</i> <i>(Grandson of Zion Hill's First Pastor)</i>
Hymn	<i>"Where Ever He Leads, I'll Go" Page 347</i>
Benediction	<i>Pastor</i>

2:00 Afternoon Service

PAGEANT - "THE CHURCH MOVES FORWARD"

The pageant was written by Eliza Hester Johnson

Members of the church will portray events from our history, ranging from the beginning to the present with an outlook on the very young members as the Church of Tomorrow.



